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The Hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—"The Government got the information from the same source as the hon. Member, viz., the newspapers."

Mr. T. C. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"With reference to the answer contained in clause (*a*), namely, that there has been an increase in the import of rice in the last three years, may I ask whether the Government will be pleased to lay on the table the reply received from the Government of India in regard to the representations on this matter?"

The Hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—"The hon. Member's suggestion will be considered, Sir."

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR:—"Are any steps taken to expedite the reply from the Government of India?"

The Hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—"The Government of India are being addressed in the matter."

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—"May I ask whether, besides facilitating freer movement of rice, Government have under consideration any special steps for raising the prices of the local products?"

The Hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—"I do not think we have any special measures for raising the prices."

Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI:—"Are the Government constituting a marketing board as advised by the Government of India."

The Hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—"It will be done at the beginning of the next financial year."

[*Note.*—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]**

II.—AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDER No. 80 OF THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The first item in the Agenda is a motion by the Hon. the Leader of the House to amend Standing Order No. 80. Under Standing Order No. 79, I have now to read the draft amendment and ask whether the Hon. Member has the leave of the House. The amendment has been circulated to the hon. Members of this House and is also printed in the Agenda. The amendment reads as follows:—

'Insert *the words "the Member giving notice of the amendments and in case he is a non-official Member, the Member of Government concerned" before the words "and a Chairman of the Council to be nominated by the President," occurring in the first sentence of the Standing Order.*'

"I wish to know whether the Hon. Member has the leave of the House. (After a pause) Since no Member objects, I take it that the Hon. Member has the leave of the House. The draft amendment is now to be referred to a Select Committee. Six Members of the Select Committee have to be elected by the Council by means of the single transferable vote in accordance with the regulations framed in this behalf, the President, the Deputy President and the Advocate-General

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being ex-officio Members of the Committee. One of the Members of the Panel of Chairmen is to be nominated by me as a Member of the Committee. I fix 1 p.m. to-day as the hour within which nominations may be handed over to the Secretary.

" If the number of candidates nominated exceeds the number of vacancies to be filled, there will be an election between 4 and 5 p.m. to-day."

III.—A BILL TO AMEND THE MADRAS LOCAL BOARDS ACT, 1920, AND THE MADRAS ELEMENTARY EDUCATION ACT, 1920 (BILL No. 2 OF 1934).

The Hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The consideration of Bill No. 2 of 1934 will now continue."

THE SCHEDULE.

Transitional Provisions.

Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI :—" I am not moving my amendment, under rule 7 (*d*), viz., in line 6 after the word ' office ' *substitute* the words ' in both the district boards.' "

Rule 7 (*g*) (*i*).

* Rao Bahadur A. T. PANNIRSELVAM :—" Sir, the amendment of which I have given notice is:

' Omit " (*g*) (*i*) *in rule 7 of the Transitory provisions.*" '

" My amendment will have the effect of removing the provision in the Bill as reported upon by the Select Committee, which enables the present president of a district board to continue as president of that portion of the board within which his constituency would lie. My idea is that, after the bifurcation, the present presidents go out of office and the boards get an opportunity of electing their own presidents. The reason is this: A person occupies the position of a president only on the ground that he commands the confidence of a majority of the Members constituting that board. That guarantee of his commanding the confidence of the majority in his board disappears, I submit, with the bifurcation or the division of the district board. I presume it would be almost impossible to so divide the board as to give the person presiding now to have a majority of supporters. The chances will be 50 per cent either way. He might, in the bifurcated board, have a majority, or he might not have a majority. And if he does have a majority, I think it would be the easiest thing for him to get himself re-elected; but if he does not have a majority, it would be unfair to him and unfair to the board over which he presides that he should be continued as president.

" One argument that has been advanced for retaining the present occupant of the presidential office is the trouble and the inconvenience of and the bad atmosphere, I may add, that is generally generated by an election. On the other hand, as against this, I have to point out that, if you retain as president, a person who does not command the confidence of the board as reconstituted, you will be making him face